This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-13 (cancelled).

14 (original). A system for providing a content item, said system comprising:

a plurality of download servers, wherein each download server receives a request for said content item, each of said download servers having:

a cache which stores said content item; and

a first object which receives a first message to invalidate said content item in said cache and which invalidates said content item in said cache in response to receipt of said first message; and

a fulfillment server having:

a content store which stores said content item; and

a first database which stores information relating to said content item; and

a second object which receives a notification that said information in said first database has been updated or deleted, and which generates, in response to said notification, said first message for dispatch to said plurality of download servers.

15 (original). The system of claim 14, wherein said fulfillment server further includes a second database which stores a log of events occurring on said plurality of download servers, wherein each of said plurality of download servers generates a second message for dispatch to said fulfillment server in response to said events, and wherein said second object receives said second message and logs said events in said second database.

16 (original). The system of claim 14, wherein said events include the downloading of said content item to a purchaser of said content item.

17 (original). The system of claim 14, wherein said content item is sold by a retailer for download by one of said plurality of download servers, and wherein said first database further stores information relating to said retailer.

18 (original). The system of claim 17, wherein said plurality of download servers is hosted by said retailer.

19 (original). The system of claim 14, wherein said download servers provide said content item for durable storage on one or more computing devices associated with consumers of said content item.

20 (original). The system of claim 14, wherein each of said first and second object is an instance of an MSMQ independent client.

21 (currently amended). A computer-implemented method of using a plurality of servers to distribute a content item, said method comprising the acts of:

receiving, at a first of said plurality of servers from a first computing device, a request for said content item, said first server having a first cache;

determining that no valid copy of said content item exists in said first cache;

obtaining said content item at said first server from a content store;

providing said content item to said first computing device;

storing said content item in said first cache;

receiving, at a fulfillment server, a change to an attribute of said content item, said attribute being stored at said fulfillment server;

said fulfillment server sending a notification to said plurality of servers in response to said change; and

said first server invalidating said copy of said content item in said first cache in response to said notification.

22 (currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein said act of sending a notification comprises using a store-and-forward messaging facility.

23 (currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein said change comprises a change in a physical location of said content item.

24 (currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein said change comprises a change in a level of protection to be applied to said content item.

25 (currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein said content item comprises:

encrypted content; and

a first cryptographic key which decrypts said encrypted content.

26 (currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 25, wherein said content item further comprises meta-data, wherein said first cryptographic key is sealed with said meta-data.

27 (currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 25, wherein said encrypted content is stored in said cache separately from said first cryptographic key.

28 (currently amended). The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein said change comprises a change in the meta-data of said content item.

29-36 (cancelled).

37 (new). A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable instructions to perform a method of using a plurality of servers to distribute a content item, the method comprising:

receiving, at a first of said plurality of servers from a first computing device, a request for said content item, said first server having a first cache;

determining that no valid copy of said content item exists in said first cache;

obtaining said content item at said first server from a content store;

providing said content item to said first computing device;

storing said content item in said first cache;

receiving, at a fulfillment server, a change to an attribute of said content item, said attribute being stored at said fulfillment server;

said fulfillment server sending a notification to said plurality of servers in response to said change; and

said first server invalidating said copy of said content item in said first cache in response to said notification.

38 (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein said act of sending a notification comprises using a store-and-forward messaging facility.

39 (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein said change comprises a change in a physical location of said content item.

40 (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein said change comprises a change in a level of protection to be applied to said content item.

41 (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein said content item comprises:

encrypted content; and

a first cryptographic key which decrypts said encrypted content.

42 (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein said content item further comprises meta-data, wherein said first cryptographic key is sealed with said meta-data.

43 (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein said encrypted content is stored in said cache separately from said first cryptographic key.

44 (new). The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein said change comprises a change in the meta-data of said content item.